

The Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group was founded by David Packard, who during the summer of 1977, asked a number of his fellow Silicon Valley CEOs to join him in building an organization that would create a proactive voice for Silicon Valley businesses. The formation in 1978 of the Manufacturing Group was the result of those discussions. The 33 charter members believed that business should work with the community and government to find innovative solutions to the challenges that faced their employees, including energy, transportation, education, and housing.

Today, the Manufacturing Group represents a variety of Silicon Valley businesses from software and manufacturing companies, to health care and education organizations. The 190 member-companies of the Manufacturing Group represent over 200,000 employees in the Silicon Valley.

During the quarter century since it was first founded, the Manufacturing Group has had a tremendous impact on the quality of life in Silicon Valley. They've brought leaders together to discuss the critical issues of our time and create solutions to these challenges. They've been at the forefront of the creation of affordable housing, improving and increasing transportation options, and being key players in addressing California's energy concerns. Today, member-companies do their part by conserving through increased efficiency, and working with regulators and energy companies to find solutions to the State's energy problems.

The Manufacturing Group was a key force in the creation of the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County and played a major role in the Trust being able to raise over \$20 million in its first 2 years. This funding, raised during a time when corporate donations began to wane, is an extraordinary achievement, producing housing for first-time home buyers and stands as a model in our country. With the Manufacturing Group's leadership, the Housing Trust will return the investment ten-fold and assist families to realize their dream of homeownership.

The Manufacturing Group's track record on public transportation projects in the Valley has been extraordinary. Their first major initiative was in 1984 when they launched the effort to win the approval of improvements of Highways 85, 237 and 101. The project funded by the Measure A half-cent sales tax proposal was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, and most importantly it was accountable to the people who passed it. The Manufacturing Group went on to spearhead other critical transportation measures in 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2002, all of which were successful, even after the law required a two-thirds voter approval.

With the outstanding leadership of Carl Guardino, the Manufacturing Group's President and CEO, annual forums are held to predict economic and infrastructure trends and the examination of what inhibits producing and keeping jobs in Silicon Valley.

Mr. Speaker, we are exceedingly proud of the work and the achievements of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. The organization has been a catalyst for important change and because of its leadership, the quality of life and the vitality of businesses have been enhanced.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group on its

25th anniversary and the great achievements they have brought about, making Silicon Valley known and admired around the world and a source of pride to our entire nation.

HONORING JOHN CALVELLI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to announce that my former Administrative Assistant, John Calvelli, is turning 40. It is hard to believe that the lanky kid I met when 19 is now older than Jack Benny always claimed to be. I guess it makes me realize that I am that much older too, although I constantly remind John that he has more grey hair than me.

I won my first primary election for Congress on September 15, 1988, the day John turned 25. I told him that evening "John, we're going to Washington together" and indeed we did. During those first months in Washington, we would sometimes walk outside, gaze at the Capitol dome and say to each other, "Do you believe we're really here?" I think that at 25, John was the youngest AA on the hill, but he rapidly turned into one of the most effective and well-liked staffers in Washington. Everybody got to know John. Even as a young person, he had what we in New York call the best "gift of gab" I ever heard. He always had that little extra something. He served as my AA for more than 11 years, and our working relationship and friendship during that time could not have been better. In fact, I often refer to John as the kid brother I never had.

During the course of my Congressional terms, John and I would often develop strategy for legislation, committee assignments, and many other things essential to a successful congressional career. We traveled cross country and overseas many times. Our first trip was probably one of the most memorable. It came that first summer in 1989, when I visited the three "I's" of New York City politics, Israel, Italy and Ireland, as well as Egypt. We came back from that trip with a picture of the Pope, stories about Egyptian fruit, grape leaves and the "Kinjedom" down in Luxor. John's complete fluency in Italian made him a great person to travel with. In fact, whenever we met Italian-speaking tour groups, in the many different countries we visited, nobody would believe that John was from New York and not from Italy.

I want to tell John that now that he is 40, one of the age categories in my newsletter this year will read, age 40 to 56, and in honor of his birthday we will talk about "Quattro formaggi" in Italian, "Political Party" in English, and the 40-hour work week being sacrosanct. I know that John's family is as proud of him as I am. His wife Maria and son John Domenico, as well as his parents Rose and Angela all share in his happiness on this special day.

John continues to remain active with many Italian American organizations, including NIAF and FIERI, a group in which he was one of the founders. John and Maria were married ten years ago at Fordham University, John's alma mater. John is an attorney by trade but

since leaving my office he has been a Senior Vice President at the Wildlife Conservation Society also known as the Bronx Zoo. To this day in Washington I get many people asking me, how is John doing?

It is a pleasure to honor John as he turns 40, and whether his future lies in politics or elsewhere I am sure that the phrase "you ain't seen nothing yet" applies to my "kid brother" John Calvelli.

FULL FUNDING URGED FOR HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a tremendous turning point in our country's voting rights history. One year ago today, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which was overwhelmingly passed with bi-partisan support, became a federal law.

The 2000 elections proved to be frustrating for both candidates and voters alike. Sadly, it highlighted issues in our voting system that needed improvement. Thanks to the leadership of the bill's sponsor, my House Administration colleague, Chairman BOB NEY, and the support of former Ranking Member STENY HOYER, we now have the foundation for a much more efficient voting system.

During the past year, this foundation has indeed started to take shape. As a result of HAVA, a program has been established to pay states to replace their punch card and lever voting machines. Last month, my home state of Connecticut unveiled a pilot project with four different types of electronic voting machines that will be used in eight towns next week on Election Day. This is a remarkable advancement for Connecticut voters, who have been using lever voting machines almost exclusively for over 50 years.

What makes HAVA so notable is that it is not solely about financial support. It takes into account the entire voting experience before, during, and after citizens enter polling places. HAVA educates voters on voting procedures as well as on their rights; makes polling places more accessible to people with disabilities; creates statewide voter registration databases that can be more effectively managed and updated; improves ballot review procedures, allowing voters to ensure that the ballots they cast are accurate; and creates provisional balloting systems to guarantee that no eligible voter is ever turned away at the polls.

On Monday, the Senate Rules Committee held a hearing to confirm the four Election Assistance Commissioners nominated by President Bush, who are responsible for implementing HAVA. One of the four nominees, Garcia Hillman was recommended by Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, and I wholeheartedly support the Leader's selection. Garcia Hillman, has effectively handled both domestic and international issues. Her areas of expertise include nonprofit management, public policy and program development, political services, the interests and rights of women and minorities; citizen participation in the development of public policy and community affairs; and elections related issues, including voting rights.